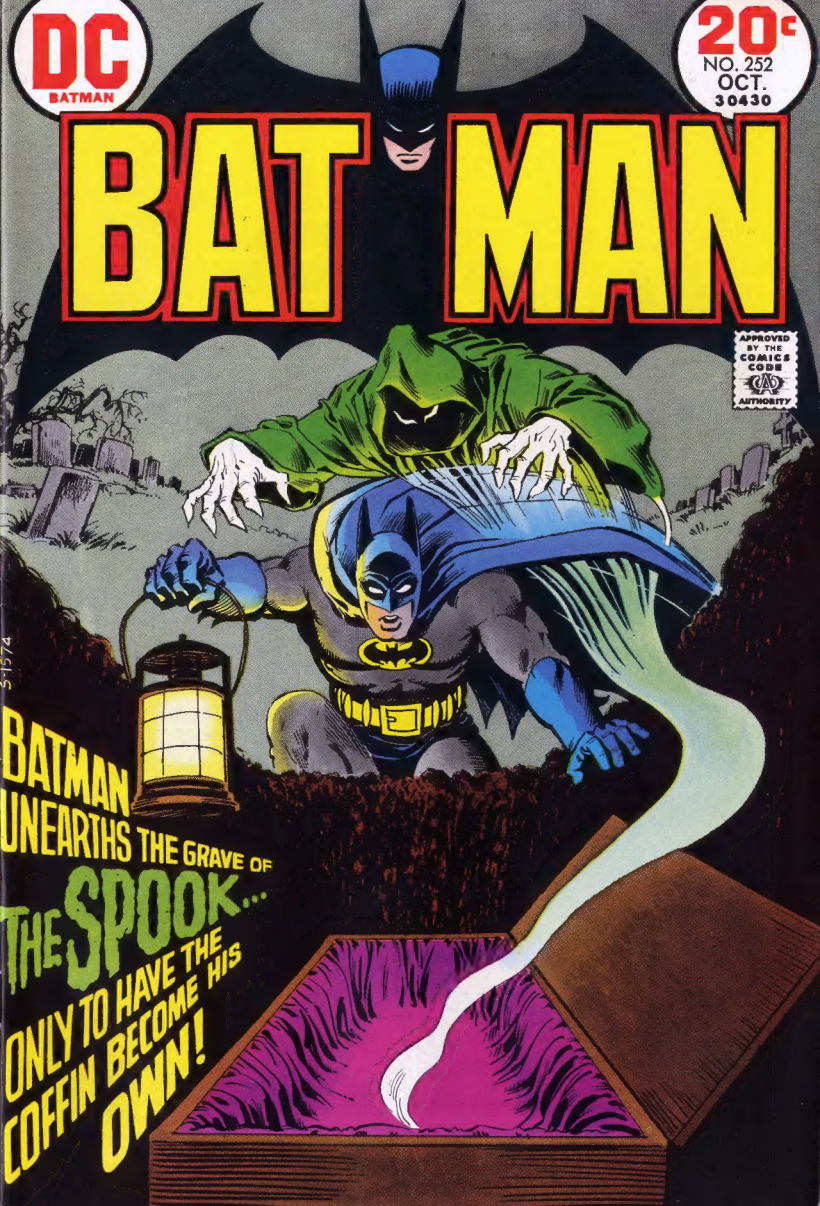
DC
BATMAN
20c
NO. 252
OCT.
30430
BAT MAN
APPROVED BY THE COMICS CODE AUTHORITY
3-1574
BATMAN UNEARTHS THE GRAVE OF THE SPOOK...
ONLY TO HAVE THE COFFIN BECOME HIS OWN!

Easy to sell
'Most Everyone buys
It sure feels swell
To earn a great
PRIZE (or CASH)

See all the Fabulous **PRIZES** *in our* **FREE CATALOG.**

Sell Personalized Christmas Cards the Sales Leadership Way!

SOME OF THE PRIZES FOR SELLING ONLY 7 BOXES

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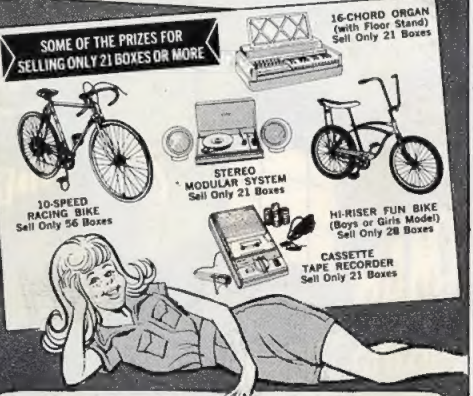
TYCO LIGHTED CAR RACING SET
Sell Only 14 Boxes
PORTABLE ELECTRIC PHONOGRAPH
Sell Only 14 Boxes

SOME OF THE PRIZES FOR SELLING ONLY 21 BOXES OR MORE


16-CHORD ORGAN (with Floor Stand)
Sell Only 21 Boxes
10-SPEED RACING BIKE
Sell Only 56 Boxes
STEREO MODULAR SYSTEM
Sell Only 21 Boxes
HI-RISER FUN BIKE (Boys or Girls Model)
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Start to earn your prizes right away. Just fill in the postage free coupon and mail today. We'll rush you everything you need at no cost to you.

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Everyone Who Tries Can Win!

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No Postage Stamp Necessary If Mailed in the United States

BUSINESS REPLY MAIL
First Class Permit No. 3105, Springfield, Mass.

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Postage Will be Paid by Addressee

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Without obligation, enroll me as a member. Rush me FREE Membership Card, FREE Album of Christmas Cards. FREE Prize Catalog and complete details on how to earn valuable prizes or big cash profits — the proven Sales Leadership way!

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(Print Clearly)

Address _____ **Apt. No.** _____

City _____ **State** _____ **Zip** _____

NEVER IN HIS WILDEST NIGHTMARES DID
THE BATMAN
DREAM HE WOULD MEET DEATH AT THE HANDS OF A DEAD MAN!
YOU'RE DYING TO FIND OUT HOW I "DIED" IN THE ELECTRIC CHAIR, BATMAN...?
FIND OUT NOW—THE HARD WAY!
STORY: FRANK ROBBINS
ART: IRV NOVICK & DICK GIORDANO
EDITING: JULIE SCHWARTZ
"The SPOOK'S MASTER STROKE!"
S-1538

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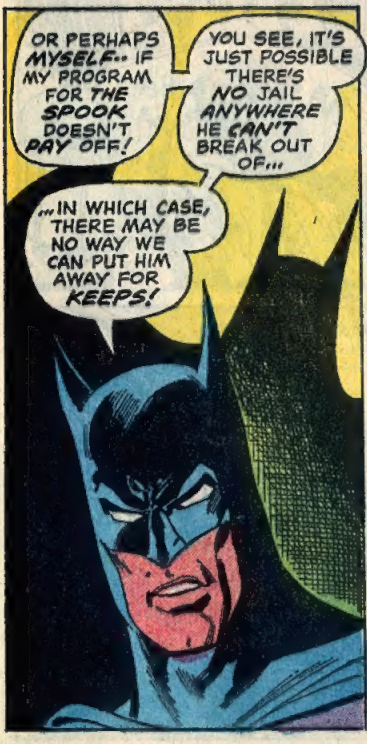
AT LONG LAST, AFTER A BAFFLING SERIES OF INCREDIBLE ESCAPES, THE SPOOK HAS BEEN CAPTURED BY THE BATMAN AND LOCKED UP IN GOTHAM'S NEW MAXIMUM-SECURITY PRISON!
BUT WHO IS THE SPOOK... MAN OR GHOST?...
...A PUZZLE THAT IS BEING PONDERED IN POLICE COMMISSIONER GORDON'S OFFICE...
BATMAN, THIS IS GOING TO SHAKE YOU UP! THE FILE WE DUG UP ON THE "SPOOK" AFTER FINGERPRINT VERIFICATION... REVEALS HE IS VAL KALIBAN... A CONVICTED MURDERER...
...WHO WAS EXECUTED IN THE ELECTRIC CHAIR TEN YEARS AGO...
"VAL KALIBAN-- OCCUPATION-- ARCHITECTURAL DRAFTSMAN-- NO PRIOR CRIMINAL RECORD...
...EXECUTED APRIL 1, 1963, FOR MURDER IN GOTHAM'S DEATH HOUSE!"
KALIBAN, VAL
VAL KALIBAN!
CONVICTED FOR KILLING HIS BOSS, HEAD OF A LARGE ENGINEERING FIRM INVOLVED IN CITY PLANNING!
MOTIVE FOR MURDER-- UNKNOWN! HMMM...
DOPING IT OUT NOW, COMMISSIONER, I'D SAY THAT VAL KALIBAN'S EMPLOYER CAUGHT HIM MESSING AROUND WITH PLANS...
...PLANS FOR GOTHAM'S NEW JAIL SYSTEM!
THAT COULD EXPLAIN THE SPOOK'S SECRET PRISON-ESCAPE ROUTES...
...WHICH SET HIM UP IN THE "ESCAPE-INSURANCE" BUSINESS FOR THE UNDERWORLD!
RIGHT NOW, BATMAN, I'VE GOT A BIGGER HEADACHE THAN KALIBAN'S PAST!
CAN I LEGALLY HOLD A MAN WHO'S ALREADY PAID THE SUPREME PENALTY?
2

SUDDENLY, COMMISSIONER GORDON'S DILEMMA BECOMES MEANINGLESS, WHEN, AT GOTHAM'S "ESCAPE-PROOF" PRISON...
HE'S ESCAPED!
GONE! VANISHED --LIKE A GHOST!

AND IN MOMENTS...
THE SPOOK--! HE'S MADE GOOD HIS BOAST... THAT "NO BARS COULD EVER HOLD HIM"!
AS I WAS SURE HE WOULD!

WH-WHAT?! ARE YOU PLAYING GAMES WITH ME, BATMAN?
UH--UH, COMMISSIONER-- WITH HIM!


OR PERHAPS MYSELF-- IF MY PROGRAM FOR THE SPOOK DOESN'T PAY OFF!
YOU SEE, IT'S JUST POSSIBLE THERE'S NO JAIL ANYWHERE HE CAN'T BREAK OUT OF...
...IN WHICH CASE, THERE MAY BE NO WAY WE CAN PUT HIM AWAY FOR KEEPS!

AND UNLESS I GET INSIDE THAT CONNIVING BRAIN -- FIND OUT WHAT MAKES IT TICK-- WE NEVER WILL!
MAKE NO MISTAKE, WE'RE DEALING WITH A MAN-- NOT A "SPOOK" WHO CAN CHEAT EVEN THE ELECTRIC CHAIR!

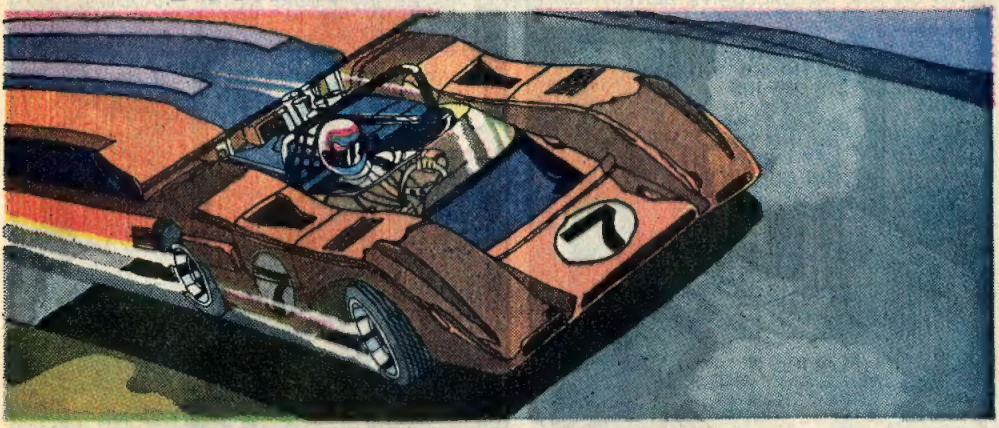
LATER, IN "POTTER'S FIELD", BURIAL GROUND OF THE UNCLAIMED...
VAL KALIBAN... 1917-1963-- THAT'S ALL... JUST THE VITAL FACTS!
GIVING NO CLUE TO THE MURDERER ON THE LOOSE...
...MASQUERADING AS A GHOST-- A "SPOOK"!
LET'S LAY THAT GHOST TO REST... RIGHT NOW!
COFFIN'S STILL SEALED! AS IT MUST'VE BEEN TEN YEARS AGO WHEN TAKEN FROM THE DEATH HOUSE...
BUT WHO LIES STRETCHED OUT IN THERE NOW?
?!
HA HA!
HA HA!
THE DEVIL! HE WAS EXPECTING ME... PREPARED THIS MOCKING RECEPTION!
WHANG!
4

PFAH! YOU NEVER FAIL ME, BATMAN...
...YOU'RE SO PREDICTABLE!
UNFORTUNATE YOU DON'T POSSESS MY SPECIAL GENIUS FOR ESCAPE...
...MOST UNFORTUNATE!
VAL KALIBAN
SHORTLY, IN A DOWNTOWN GOTHAM "SOCIAL CLUB"...
HEY, THAT SPOOK SURE IS SOMETHIN'! PULLED A SPLIT RIGHT UNDER THEIR FUZZ-Y NOSES!
YE-AH, BUT NOW HE'S REAL HOT-- AN' HE LEFT A LOTTA OUR BOYS STILL STUCK IN THE SLAMMER!
...SO WHAT GOOD'S HIS CRUDDY "ESCAPE-INSURANCE" POLICIES?
CAN'T EVEN ANTE 'EM UP IN PLACE OF CASH-- LIKE WE USED TO!
DON'T SELL YOUR INSURANCE AGENT SHORT, BOYS!
THE SPOOK IS BACK IN BUSINESS!
5

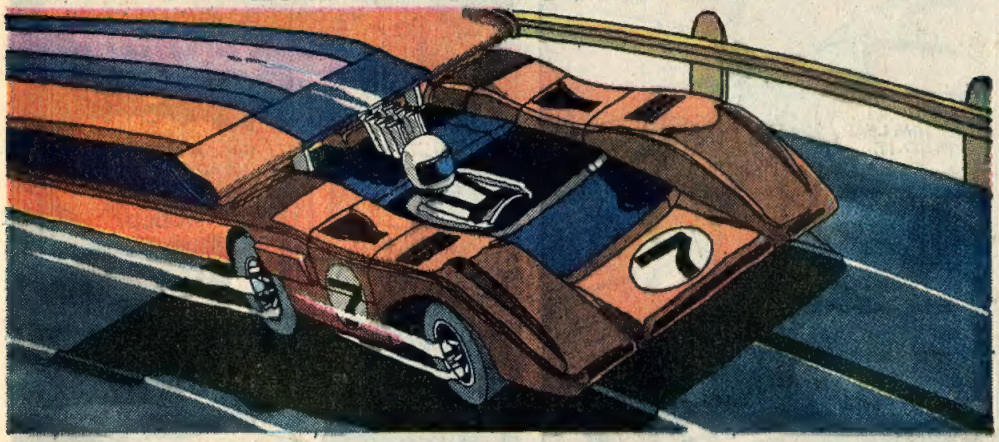
WHILE THE SPOOK RE-OPENS SHOP IN GOTHAM, FREE OF THE BATMAN-MENACE... THE DEATHLY QUIET CEMETERY DRAWS A NEW VISITOR...
...A FAMILIAR FIGURE ON A LONELY MISSION. HAS HE COME TO MOURN AT THE NEWLY FILLED GRAVE OF HIS MASTER, OR... TO RE-BURY HIM?
SOON, LABORED BREATHING AND THE STEADY CLUMP OF FRESHLY TURNED EARTH FILL THE NIGHT AIR...
...UNTIL FINALLY...
ARE YOU ALL RIGHT, SIR?
YEAH, ALFRED-- THIS MINI-LUNG DID THE JOB!
KEPT ME FROM SUFFOCATING...
...PLUS MY SPECIAL STEEL-LINED "BATMAN" HOOD-- IT SAVED THE THICK HEAD OF JASON BARD!
THUNK-
THUNK!
THANKS FOR BRINGING MY CANE, ALFRED-- DON'T NEED THIS SPADE ANY MORE!
QUITE, MASTER BARD! IT SERVED TO KEEP THE SPOOK FROM DETECTING YOUR TELLTALE LIMP-- WHEN YOU BEGAN THIS MASQUERADE!

CONTINUED ON 2 ER PAGE FOLLOWING

Peter Revson drives this car.



You can drive this one.



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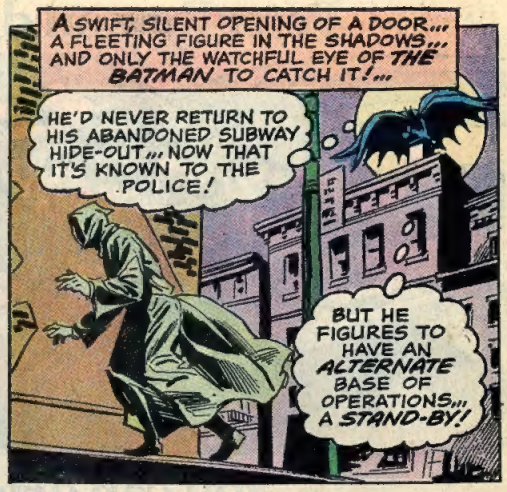
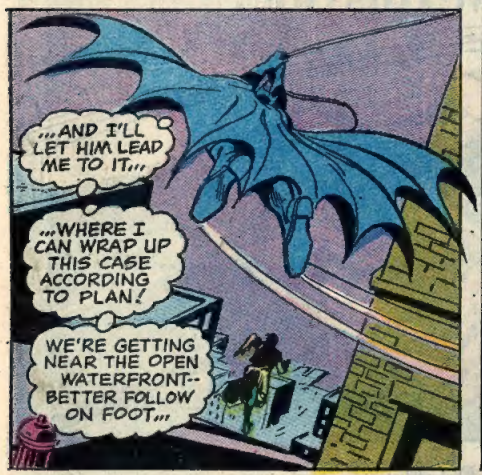
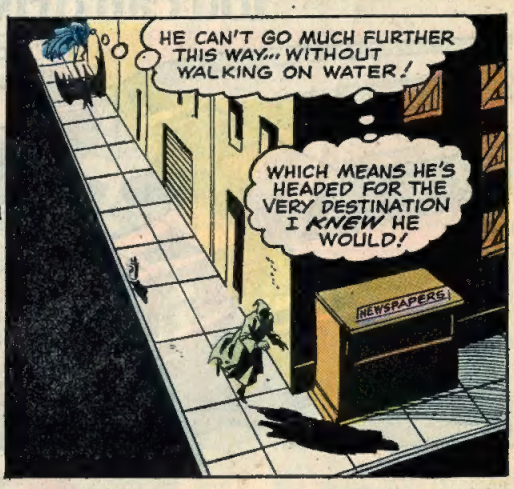
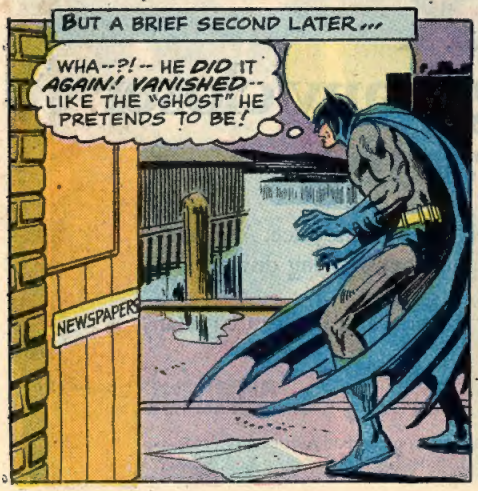
NOW YOU KNOW, READER! THIS WAS ALL A PUT ON FOR THE EXCLUSIVE BENEFIT OF THE SPOOK!
BUT WHAT PLAN DOES THE REAL BATMAN HAVE IN MIND?...
NOW THAT HE THINKS I'M OFF HIS BACK, KALIBAN'S BOUND TO LET DOWN HIS GUARD!
GOTHAM SOCIAL CLUB
--PLAYING IT MORE FAST AND LOOSE THAN IF I WERE "ALIVE!"

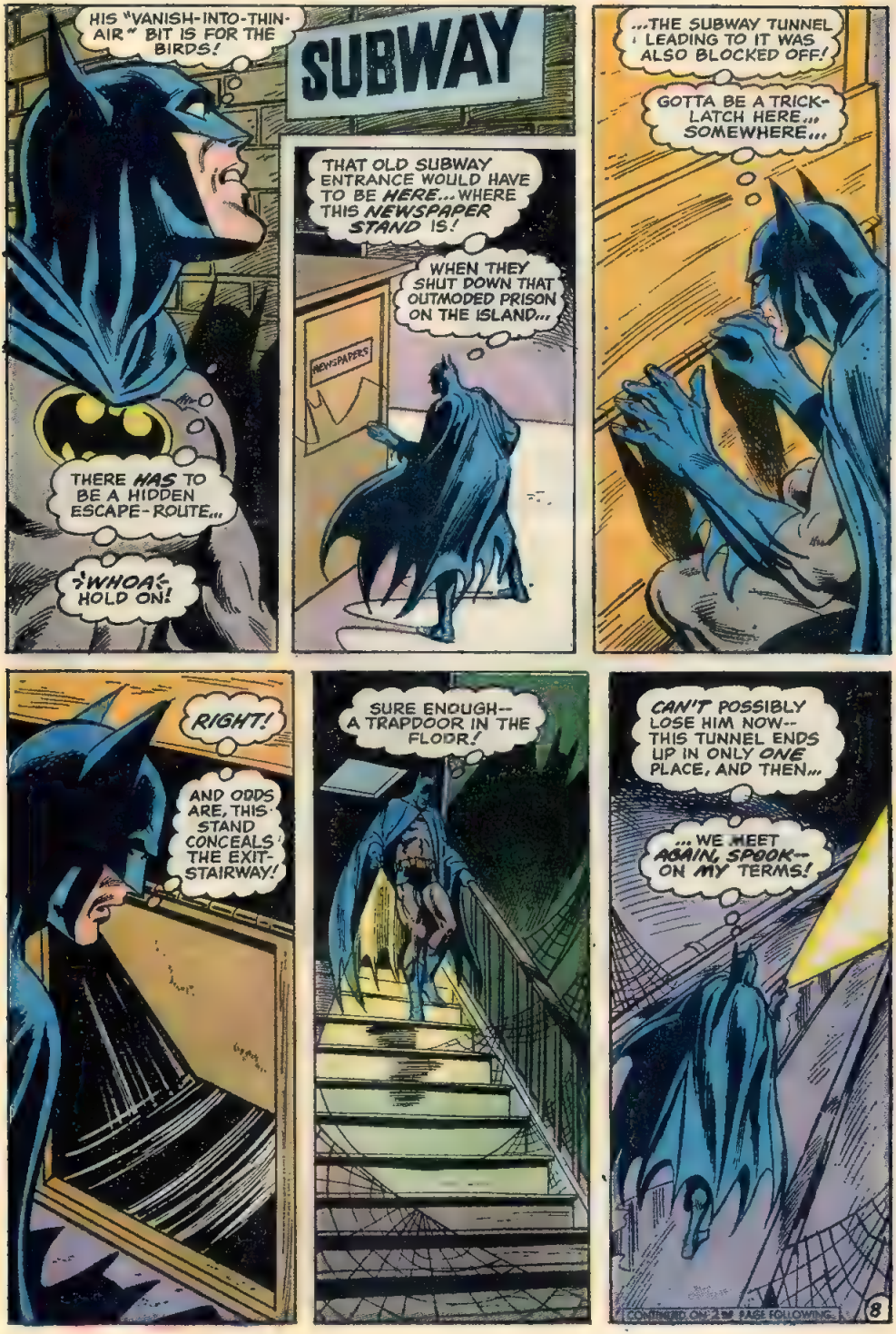

A SWIFT, SILENT OPENING OF A DOOR... A FLEETING FIGURE IN THE SHADOWS... AND ONLY THE WATCHFUL EYE OF THE BATMAN TO CATCH IT!...
HE'D NEVER RETURN TO HIS ABANDONED SUBWAY HIDE-OUT... NOW THAT IT'S KNOWN TO THE POLICE!
BUT HE FIGURES TO HAVE AN ALTERNATE BASE OF OPERATIONS... A STAND-BY!


...AND I'LL LET HIM LEAD ME TO IT...
...WHERE I CAN WRAP UP THIS CASE ACCORDING TO PLAN!
WE'RE GETTING NEAR THE OPEN WATERFRONT-- BETTER FOLLOW ON FOOT...


HE CAN'T GO MUCH FURTHER THIS WAY... WITHOUT WALKING ON WATER!
WHICH MEANS HE'S HEADED FOR THE VERY DESTINATION I KNEW HE WOULD!
NEWSPAPERS

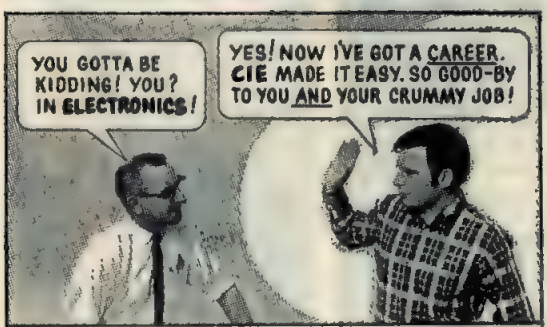

BUT A BRIEF SECOND LATER...
WHA--?!-- HE DID IT AGAIN! VANISHED-- LIKE THE "GHOST" HE PRETENDS TO BE!
NEWSPAPERS

SUBWAY
HE WAS HOMING IN ON THAT ISLAND OUT IN THE MIDDLE OF THE RIVER...
THAT TINY ISLAND... ABANDONED HOME OF THE FORMER GOTHAM "TOMBS"! WHERE KALIBAN WAS "EXECUTED"!


HIS "VANISH-INTO-THIN-AIR" BIT IS FOR THE BIRDS!
SUBWAY
THERE HAS TO BE A HIDDEN ESCAPE-ROUTE...
WHOA! HOLD ON!
THAT OLD SUBWAY ENTRANCE WOULD HAVE TO BE HERE... WHERE THIS NEWSPAPER STAND IS!
WHEN THEY SHUT DOWN THAT OUTMODED PRISON ON THE ISLAND...
NEWSPAPERS
...THE SUBWAY TUNNEL LEADING TO IT WAS ALSO BLOCKED OFF!
GOTTA BE A TRICK-LATCH HERE... SOMEWHERE...
RIGHT!
AND ODDS ARE, THIS STAND CONCEALS THE EXIT-STAIRWAY!
SURE ENOUGH-- A TRAPDOOR IN THE FLOOR!
CAN'T POSSIBLY LOSE HIM NOW-- THIS TUNNEL ENDS UP IN ONLY ONE PLACE, AND THEN...
...WE MEET AGAIN, SPOOK-- ON MY TERMS!
CONTINUED ON 2 IN PAGE FOLLOWING
8

The day Bill told off his boss

HAH! ANYBODY'D BE CRAZY TO PAY YOU THAT MUCH!
THAT'S WHAT YOU THINK! I'VE BEEN LEARNING ELECTRONICS IN MY SPARE TIME AT HOME FROM CIE... AND NOW I CAN TAKE MY PICK OF GOOD JOBS!



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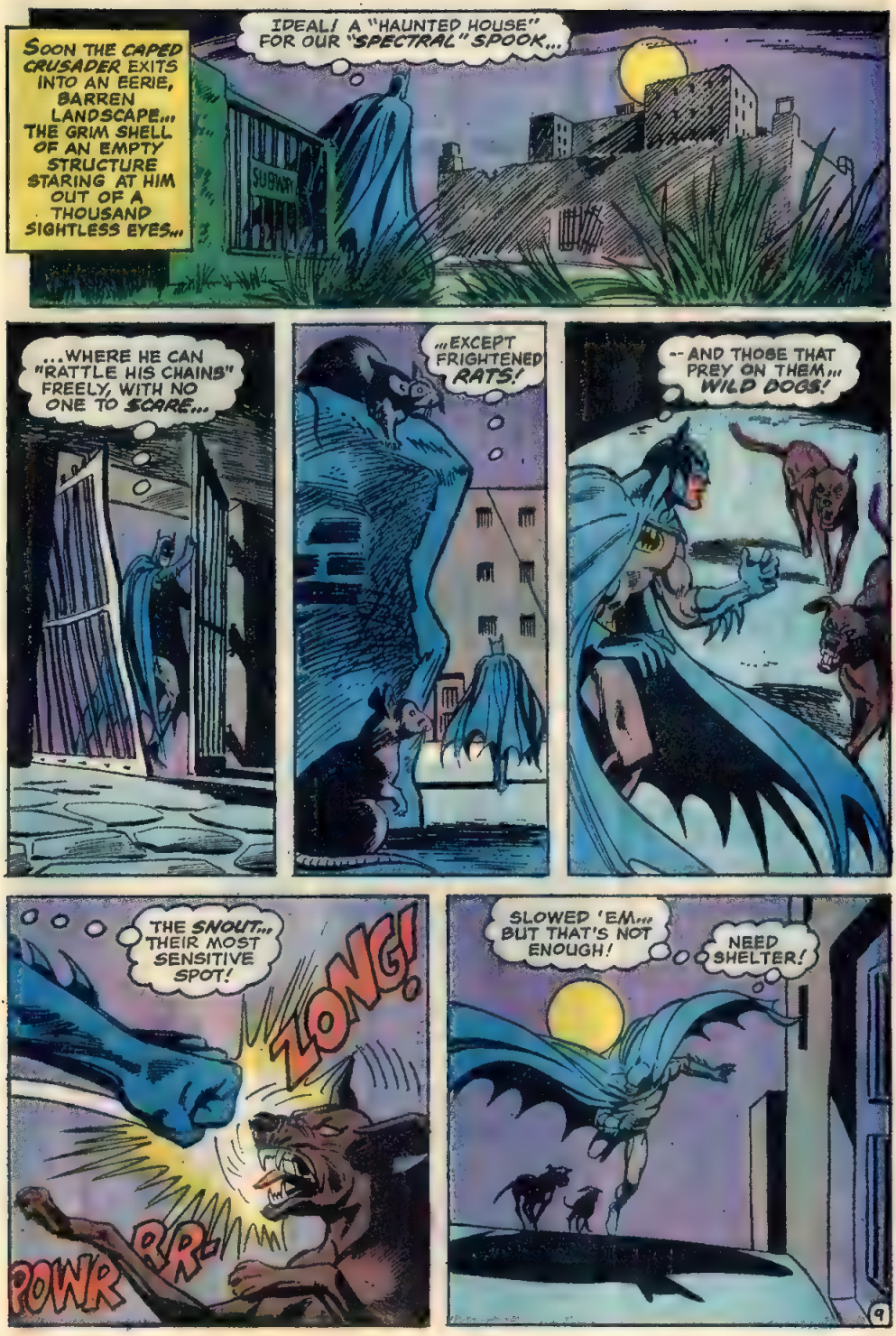
SOON THE CAPED CRUSADER EXITS INTO AN EERIE, BARREN LANDSCAPE... THE GRIM SHELL OF AN EMPTY STRUCTURE STARING AT HIM OUT OF A THOUSAND SIGHTLESS EYES...
IDEAL! A "HAUNTED HOUSE" FOR OUR "SPECTRAL" SPOOK...
SUBWAY
...WHERE HE CAN "RATTLE HIS CHAINS" FREELY, WITH NO ONE TO SCARE...
...EXCEPT FRIGHTENED RATS!
-- AND THOSE THAT PREY ON THEM... WILD DOGS!
THE SNOUT... THEIR MOST SENSITIVE SPOT!
ZONG!
POWR
RRR
SLOWED 'EM... BUT THAT'S NOT ENOUGH!
NEED SHELTER!
9

...CLOSE!
THE SPOOK'S GOT HIMSELF SOME UGLY HOUSEHOLD PETS! PLUS SERVING AS AN EFFECTIVE SECURITY FORCE!
KLANG!
THEN, MOVING CAUTIOUSLY INTO THE CELL-BLOCK...
DEATH-ROW! WHERE THE CONDEMNED KALIBAN SWEATED IT OUT TEN YEARS AGO...
...WAITING HIS WALK DOWN THE "LAST MILE"! PLOTTING... SCHEMING...
...PERFECTING HIS PLAN TO ESCAPE THE DOOM BEHIND THIS GREEN DOOR?
BUT... HOW DID HE WORK IT?
CAN I RECONSTRUCT IT IF I GO THROUGH THE MOTIONS... LIKE THE SPOOK DID?
HIS TROUSER-LEGS SLIT FOR THE ELECTRODE-CLAMPS AROUND HIS BARE ANKLES...
...HIS BALD SKULL BARED FOR THE CHILL CARESS OF THAT METAL CAP OF DEATH...
WITH THE SUDDENNESS OF MAN-MADE LIGHTNING, A SPOTLIGHT SNAPS ON--AND...
PLEASE BE MY GUEST, BATMAN--
--REMAIN SEATED!
CONTINUED ON 3RD PAGE FOLLOWING.
10

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MR. BALDY BIGSHOT SKIN HEAD WIG

Now's your chance to play the "big shot". You'll be "the boss" when you put on this skin head wig and look several years older. You'll get a million laughs!

Item no. 102 Only $1.00

GIANT VAMPIRE BAT

This creepy creature of the night is made of life-like black rubber. Its wings spread out to a full 13" across and flap with a life-like motion as you jiggle its cord. Hang it in your room, car or anywhere else you think it will "shock" them.

Item no. 103 Only $1.00

THE SECRET SEAT BOMB

Place this secret seat bomb under the cushion of any chair or couch. When someone sits on it, the "BOMB" goes off with a blast! You'll get a million laughs. Completely harmless and may be used over and over again.

Item no. 107 Only 50¢

MAGICIAN'S BAG OF TRICKS

Your friends will be shocked and amazed at your new abilities to mystify and fool them. This bag of tricks contains all you'll need — four secret magician's devices plus a complete instruction book on how to do 102 different magic tricks.

Item no 105 Only $1.50

MAGIC CARDS

Fool and amaze your friends many times over with this trick deck. You'll be the hit of the party. No one will know the secrets but you. This deck comes complete with easy to follow instructions for 10 different tricks.

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50 FIGHTER PLANES

You get 50 scale model unbreakable fighter planes of different countries—all you need to reenact history's famous air battles. Hang them from threads and fly them all at once!

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FRANKENSTEIN MASK

Put on this rubber face mask and you'll look like a nightmare come true. Authentic in detail—you'll be sure to shake up everyone who sees you wearing it.

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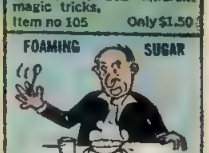
BLOODY SOAP

Smear some of this powder on any bar of soap. When someone begins to use the soap, it will turn their hands and face bloody red. You won't be able to stop laughing. Completely harmless.

Item no. 108 Only 25¢



FOAMING SUGAR

This appears to be normal sugar, but when it is dropped into liquid it foams right out of the cup, glass or bowl. Switch it for the real stuff then sit back and wait to laugh. Completely harmless.

Item no. 109 Only 25¢

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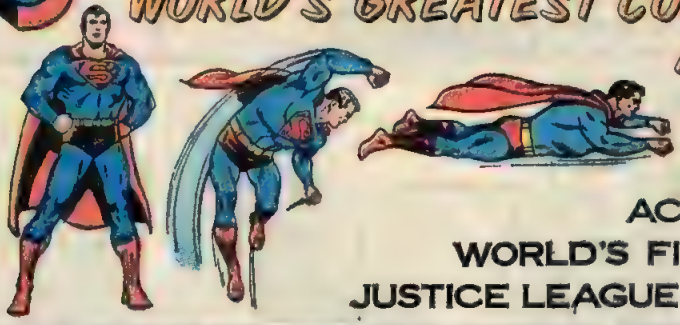

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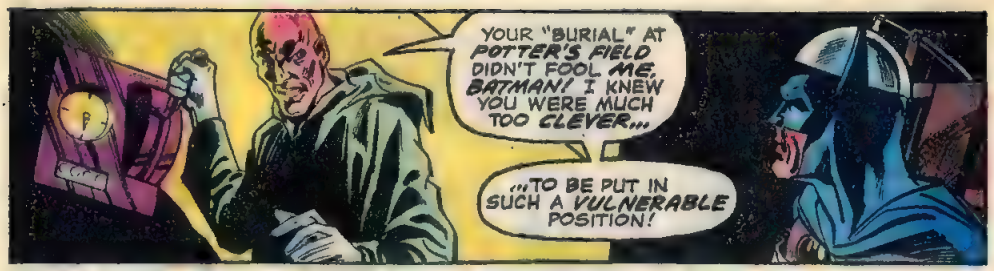
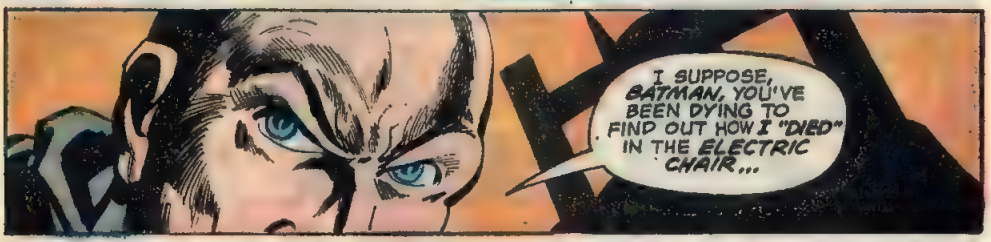

YOUR "BURIAL" AT POTTER'S FIELD DIDN'T FOOL ME, BATMAN! I KNEW YOU WERE MUCH TOO CLEVER...
...TO BE PUT IN SUCH A VULNERABLE POSITION!

THEN YOU ALSO KNOW I WAS TRAILING YOU FROM THE GRAVE-YARD...?
NATURALLY! AND I LED YOU HERE--TO MY STAMPING GROUND!
A MOST ENJOYABLE GAME WE PLAYED--ONE YOU WERE DESTINED TO LOSE!


I SUPPOSE, BATMAN, YOU'VE BEEN DYING TO FIND OUT HOW I "DIED" IN THE ELECTRIC CHAIR...

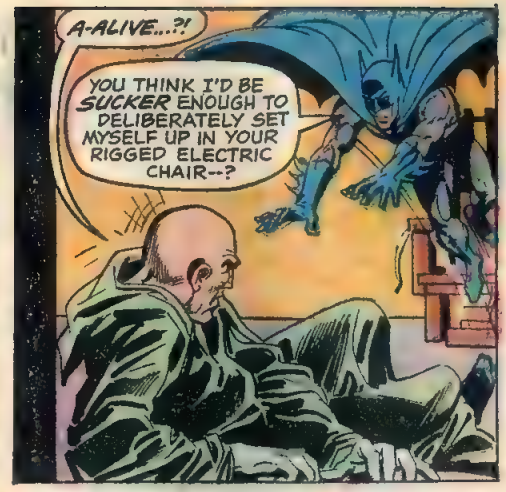
...SO FIND OUT NOW--THE HARD WAY!
I ALREADY KNOW, SPOOK!

YOU--WHAT?!
IT WOULD'VE BEEN SIMPLE FOR YOU TO ESCAPE FROM DEATH-ROW, KALIBAN...
...BUT YOU NEEDED TO BE LISTED AS "DEAD" TO ACCOMPLISH YOUR LONG-RANGE SCHEME--SETTING UP A GANGLAND "ESCAPE-INSURANCE" RACKET!

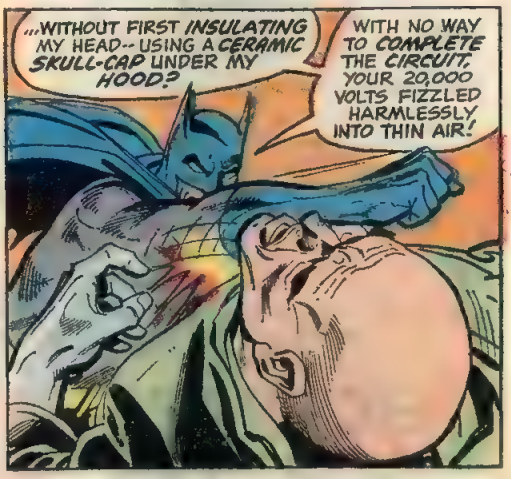
SO YOU HAD TO PROVIDE A STAND-IN FOR YOUR EXECUTION! SOME NAMELESS LOOK-ALIKE OUTSIDE PRISON--WHOM YOU BROUGHT BACK HERE, HYPNOTIZED...
...AND LET GO TO YOUR DEATH WITHOUT A TELLTALE WHIMPER! FOR WHO WOULD CHECK FINGERPRINTS AFTERWARD...?

YES--YES! THAT'S HOW I DID IT, BATMAN!
YOU'RE CLEVER, ALL RIGHT-- MUCH TOO CLEVER...
ZZZZT!
...TO LIVE!
KRA-AK!
THE HIGH-PITCHED WHINE OF THE GENERATOR RISES TO A SCREAMING CRESCENDO...
DIE! DIE-- WHILE I LIVE ON AS THE SPOOK!
5,000
10,000
VOLTS
20,000
0
THEN, ABRUPT SILENCE AS THE POWER IS CUT... THE EVIL DEED DONE!
ANOTHER SWITCH IS THROWN ...THE ELECTROCUTED BATMAN IS RELEASED FROM HIS EARTHLY BONDS!...
YOU PLAYED OUR GAME BRILLIANTLY-- TO THE END!
FOR THAT, YOU DESERVE A PROPER BURIAL! A BURIAL I NEVER GOT...

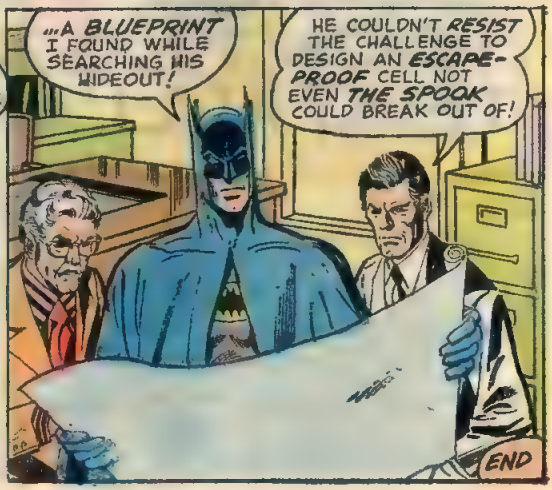
YOU MOURN ME TOO SOON, SPOOK!


A-ALIVE...?!
YOU THINK I'D BE SUCKER ENOUGH TO DELIBERATELY SET MYSELF UP IN YOUR RIGGED ELECTRIC CHAIR--?

KWANG!
OWW!


...WITHOUT FIRST INSULATING MY HEAD-- USING A CERAMIC SKULL-CAP UNDER MY HOOD?
WITH NO WAY TO COMPLETE THE CIRCUIT, YOUR 20,000 VOLTS FIZZLED HARMLESSLY INTO THIN AIR!

LATER, AT GOTHAM'S NEW MAXIMUM-SECURITY PRISON...
BUT HOW LONG CAN WE GUARD HIM ON A ROUND-THE-CLOCK BASIS, BATMAN?
UNTIL WE BUILD THIS, COMMISSIONER GORDON--
--THE PRODUCT OF KALIBAN'S SUPREME EGO...
13


...A BLUEPRINT I FOUND WHILE SEARCHING HIS HIDEOUT!
HE COULDN'T RESIST THE CHALLENGE TO DESIGN AN ESCAPE-PROOF CELL NOT EVEN THE SPOOK COULD BREAK OUT OF!
END

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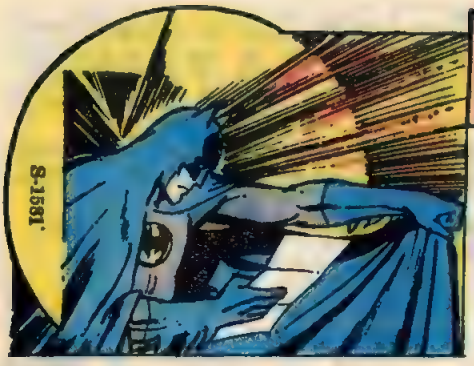

LETTERS to the BATMAN

Dear Editor:

Batman #249 was mighty fine. I'm glad you had a lot of Playboy-Bruce Wayne in this issue, because Mr. Novick and Mr. Giordano draw him awfully well! In some panels, blow-ups of Bruce look very attractive. You should show him more often in a tux and tie.

The story itself ("The Citadel of Crime") was one of the better ones with a little irony to pick it up. I smiled at the last panel where Marla Manning admired *The Batman's* check and put down Bruce Wayne at the same time!

The *Robin* story ("Case of the Kidnaped Crusader") was entertaining; little things like pimples blowing a secret identity can give a person a little laugh, because it sounds so *insane* and yet so *true.* The artwork fascinated me; I loved Frank McLaughlin's inks on Bob Brown's pencils. It gives *Robin* a whole new look and I like it.

Well, all I have left to say is that this issue has gotten my approval (which is pretty good considering I don't exactly love mysteries).

DEBBIE HETHERINGTON, Wallaceburg, Ont.

(Ah! But even life is a sweet mystery!—JS)

Dear Editor:

Quick! Grab Elliot Maggin! Chain him to his typewriter! Shackle him to his chair! Don't let him get away! He's the best thing that's happened to *Robin* since he left for *Gotham U.!*

Mr. Maggin has made *Robin* concerned, aware, and courageous! He's made him human! The biggest improvement is the change in attitude his opponents have undergone. They no longer regard this *Teen Titan* as a mere nuisance. Instead they are now wary, cautious, and downright respectful! And it's about time!

The new team of Brown and McLaughlin has far surpassed expectations. They have given *Robin* that which Novick and Giordano never could—the grace and agility of the master gymnast and acrobat (acrorobin?) that he really is.

MARGIE SPEARS, Hamden, Ct.

(Unfortunately, the Robin *team of Brown-McLaughlin could only be a one-shot. Last issue was Novick-McLaughlin; this time it's Dillin-Giordano. We'll keep fielding the best team available.—JS)*

Dear Editor:

"The Citadel of Crime" had both good and bad qualities. The first couple of pages developed the theme of the story for us. However, the story quickly became boring and tiresome. Frank Robbins is an exceptional writer, but in this story he was below his usual standard of mystery and entertainment. However, I was glad to see more of Bruce Wayne in this story. Frank showed us some of his insight into the elite society that Bruce has to conform to. The *Robin* story was equally as bad as the *Batman.* A car with secret components is an old trick. *Robin* tried to hold the tale up, but it just sank into oblivion.

I really am sorry I found this issue to be bad. Sometimes I think we expect too much from you and your staff.

SAL ANTIERI, Mt. Vernon, N.Y.

(Please don't hesitate to tell us you expect much (even too *much)! The way we look at it, it's a matter of much ado about* something!—JS)

Dear Editor!

For once, I told myself that I was going to sit down and write a serious, straightforward letter—so here goes:

Batman #249 has been the best of the bunch since the start of '73. The splash panel for "The Citadel of Crime" overwhelmed me. There stood *The Batman*—like a gallant centurion, fearing nothing or no one. It was a great beginning to a great story. Irv Novick portrayed the Cowled Avenger magnificently. Dick Giordano's inks were perfect, or as near-perfect, as ever.

Frank Robbins wasn't out of the scene either, I may add. The only part of the story that was blown out of proportion was the $100 check from Bruce Wayne. I can't believe that Marla Manning, no matter how peeved, would publicly humiliate millionaire Bruce Wayne. The part about the two pranksters was believable, since teen-agers will go to any extreme to belittle elders. I'm a teen myself, y'know.

The story improved as it continued. Robbins blended the Bruce Wayne-playboy guise perfectly into the story and brought *The Batman* onto the scene with the same mysterious abruptness that literally strikes fear into the hearts of criminals. The last panel of the story was probably the best—a fitting and comic end.

Brown, McLaughlin, and Maggin weren't in the bullpen either. Elliot scripted a terrific *Robin* tale. I'm glad to see that super-heroes suffer from acne, too. Bravo, Elliot Maggin!

Now, I ask you! Is this a serious enough letter to get printed? Only the *Shadow* knows!

CLINT THOMAS, Oak Hill, W. Va.

(And what the Shadow *knows will be revealed in next issue's full-lengther, "Who Knows What Evil . . .?"—JS)*

Dear Editor:

"The Citadel of Crime" was quite good, with some nice detective work on *The Batman's* part. It was an interesting idea for Bruce Wayne to act the "unconcerned slob" to get into the good graces of that club.

"The Case of the Kidnaped Crusader" was excellent; a complete reverse of the *Robin* nonsense Elliot Maggin handed us last issue. Skillful use of continuity here, with the appearance of the consumer crusader, not to mention the brief mention of Clark Kent. Again, a bit of detection, with completely fair clues, and some believable humor. Elliot Maggin is certainly getting *Robin* down pat!

RICHARD MORRISSEY, Framingham, Mass.

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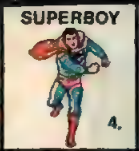

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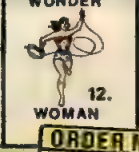

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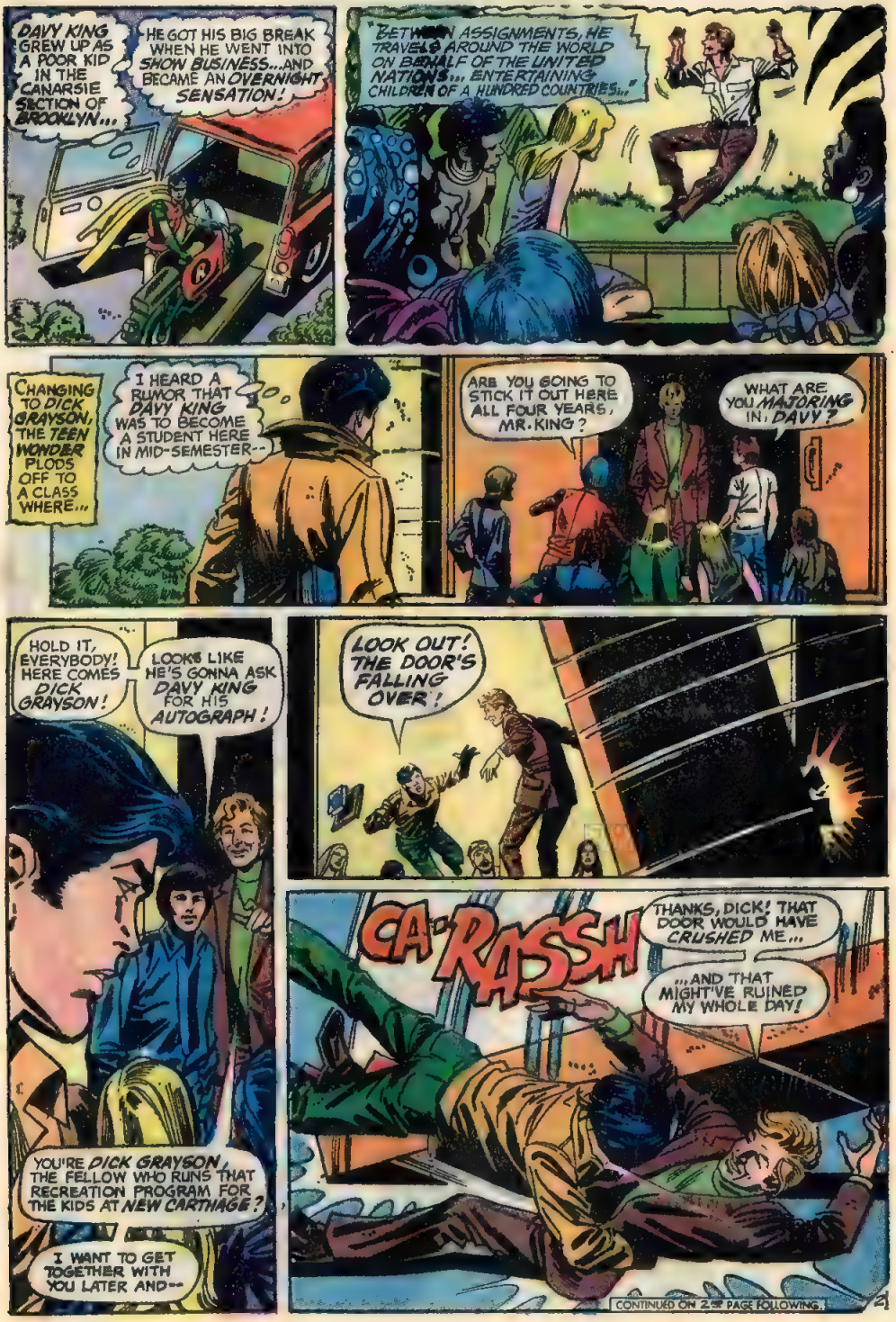
...OR FORKING OVER A 10% COMMISSION TO HIS AGENT?
THAT'S WHAT YOU'RE REALLY WORRIED ABOUT, VAN!
WELL, AT LEAST I CAN BOOK PERSONAL APPEARANCES DURING HOLIDAYS AND VACATIONS--
NO!--I'LL HAVE REPORTS AND TERM PAPERS TO WORK ON! SEE YA!
ACTOR-SINGER-DANCER-COMEDIAN DAVY KING TAKES A DEEP BREATH AS HE PONDERS THE PROSPECT OF THE EDUCATION HE NEVER RECEIVED...
BUT THAT MOMENT OF REVERIE IS INTERRUPTED BY A FAMILIAR RED-AND-YELLOW FORM BARRELING ACROSS THE HUDSON UNIVERSITY CAMPUS...
ROBIN
THE TEEN WONDER
WASN'T THAT--SURE! THE BATMAN'S SIDEKICK HAS BEEN SEEN AROUND NEW CARTHAGE A LOT LATELY!
WOW! HE'S HERE...REALLY HERE--IN PERSON--
"THE KING FROM CANARSIE!"
TA-PUCKETA
PUCKETA
PUCKETA
R
DEDICATED TO: DANNY KAYE
WRITTEN BY: Elliot Maggin
ART BY: Dick Dillin and Dick Giordano
EDITED BY: Julius Schwartz
S-15


DAVY KING GREW UP AS A POOR KID IN THE CANARSIE SECTION OF BROOKLYN...
HE GOT HIS BIG BREAK WHEN HE WENT INTO SHOW BUSINESS...AND BECAME AN OVERNIGHT SENSATION!
"BETWEEN ASSIGNMENTS, HE TRAVELS AROUND THE WORLD ON BEHALF OF THE UNITED NATIONS... ENTERTAINING CHILDREN OF A HUNDRED COUNTRIES..."
CHANGING TO DICK GRAYSON, THE TEEN WONDER PLODS OFF TO A CLASS WHERE...
I HEARD A RUMOR THAT DAVY KING WAS TO BECOME A STUDENT HERE IN MID-SEMESTER--
ARE YOU GOING TO STICK IT OUT HERE ALL FOUR YEARS, MR. KING?
WHAT ARE YOU MAJORING IN, DAVY?
HOLD IT, EVERYBODY! HERE COMES DICK GRAYSON!
LOOKS LIKE HE'S GONNA ASK DAVY KING FOR HIS AUTOGRAPH!
YOU'RE DICK GRAYSON, THE FELLOW WHO RUNS THAT RECREATION PROGRAM FOR THE KIDS AT NEW CARTHAGE?
I WANT TO GET TOGETHER WITH YOU LATER AND--
LOOK OUT! THE DOOR'S FALLING OVER!
CA-RASSH
THANKS, DICK! THAT DOOR WOULD HAVE CRUSHED ME...
...AND THAT MIGHT'VE RUINED MY WHOLE DAY!
CONTINUED ON 2ND PAGE FOLLOWING.

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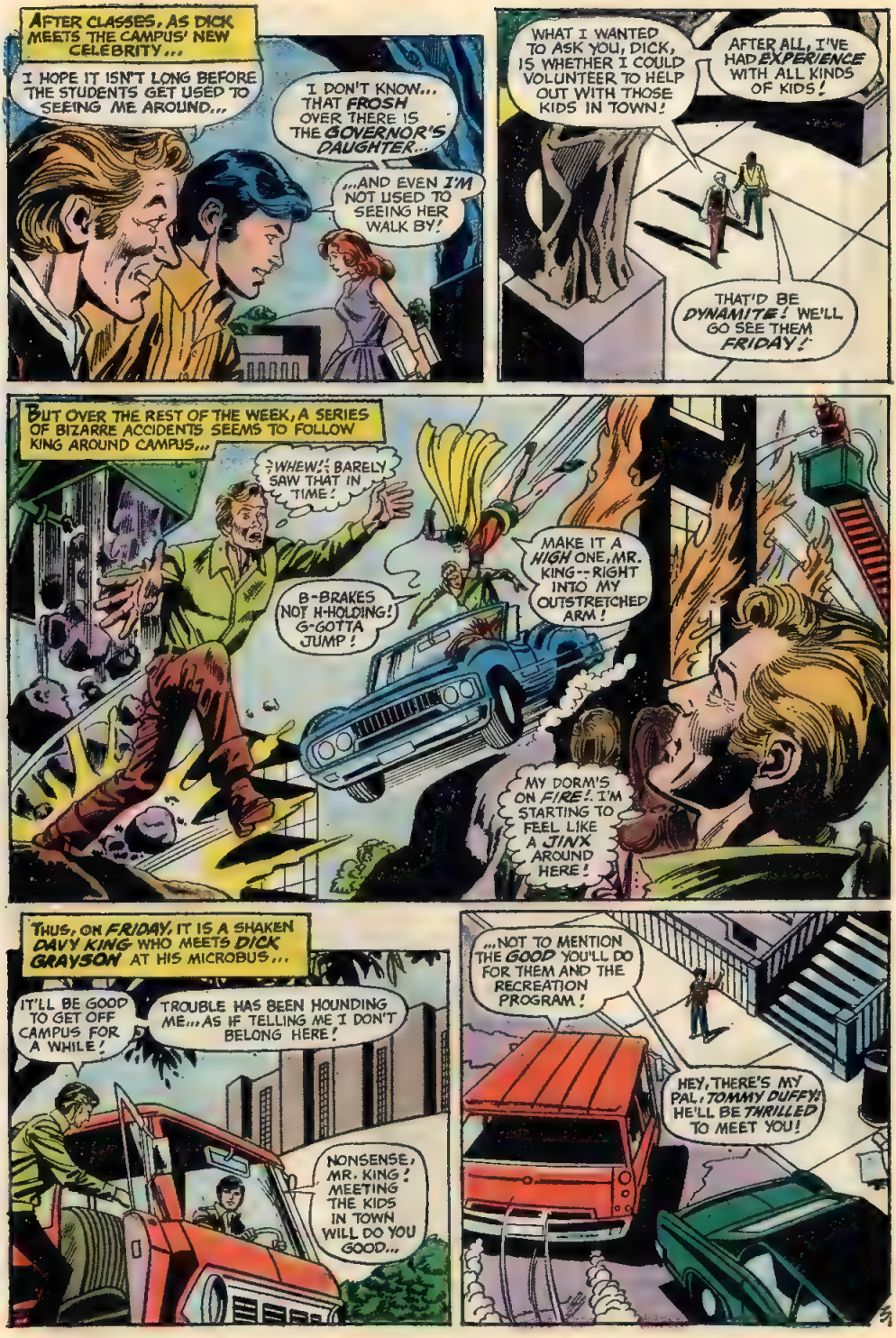
AFTER CLASSES, AS DICK MEETS THE CAMPUS' NEW CELEBRITY...
I HOPE IT ISN'T LONG BEFORE THE STUDENTS GET USED TO SEEING ME AROUND...
I DON'T KNOW... THAT FROSH OVER THERE IS THE GOVERNOR'S DAUGHTER...
...AND EVEN I'M NOT USED TO SEEING HER WALK BY!
WHAT I WANTED TO ASK YOU, DICK, IS WHETHER I COULD VOLUNTEER TO HELP OUT WITH THOSE KIDS IN TOWN!
AFTER ALL, I'VE HAD EXPERIENCE WITH ALL KINDS OF KIDS!
THAT'D BE DYNAMITE! WE'LL GO SEE THEM FRIDAY!
BUT OVER THE REST OF THE WEEK, A SERIES OF BIZARRE ACCIDENTS SEEMS TO FOLLOW KING AROUND CAMPUS...
WHEW! BARELY SAW THAT IN TIME!
B-BRAKES NOT H-HOLDING! G-GOTTA JUMP!
MAKE IT A HIGH ONE, MR. KING--RIGHT INTO MY OUTSTRETCHED ARM!
MY DORM'S ON FIRE! I'M STARTING TO FEEL LIKE A JINX AROUND HERE!
THUS, ON FRIDAY, IT IS A SHAKEN DAVY KING WHO MEETS DICK GRAYSON AT HIS MICROBUS...
IT'LL BE GOOD TO GET OFF CAMPUS FOR A WHILE!
TROUBLE HAS BEEN HOUNDING ME... AS IF TELLING ME I DON'T BELONG HERE!
NONSENSE, MR. KING! MEETING THE KIDS IN TOWN WILL DO YOU GOOD...
...NOT TO MENTION THE GOOD YOU'LL DO FOR THEM AND THE RECREATION PROGRAM!
HEY, THERE'S MY PAL, TOMMY DUFFY! HE'LL BE THRILLED TO MEET YOU!

TOMMY, THIS IS DAVY KING, THE BIG MOVIE STAR!
HE'LL BE HELPING US OUT WITH OUR PROGRAM--
HI, TOMMY--
YEAH...
DICK, I'LL TELL THE OTHER GUYS YOU'RE HERE!
MAYBE HE'S NEVER HEARD OF ME...?
NO...IT'S NOT THAT! TOMMY'S JUST TRYING TO ACT COOL... UNIMPRESSED!
CLUB HOUSE
GUESS WHO'S HERE WITH DICK GRAYSON! DAVY KING--THE COMIC!
IS HE STILL ALIVE?
WHADDYA MEAN? HE'S NO OLDER'N YOUR DAD!
THAT OLD, HUH?
LISSEN! HE'S TERRIFIC! I SAW HIM IN THIS OLD MOVIE IMMITATIN' HITLER--MAKIN' FUN OF HIM!
NAW, THAT WAS CHARLIE CHAPLIN!
WHO'S CHARLIE CHAPLIN?
IT TAKES SOME MINUTES TO WARM UP HIS AUDIENCE! BUT DAVY KING HAS MAGIC ON HIS SIDE...
AND THEN THE PROFESSOR DREW HIMSELF UP AND SAID...
"...YOU VILL TAKE YOUR JELLY BEANS UND STICK DEM IN YOUR BELLY-BUTTONS, UND...
I HEARD SOMETHING OUTSIDE!
I MIGHT BE PARANOID ABOUT ALL THESE "ACCIDENTS" LATELY, BUT--
CONTINUED ON 2ND PAGE FOLLOWING

How Joe solved his "security problem"!

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WHAT A MESS! ANOTHER LAYOFF AT OUR PLANT AND I'M STILL IN DEBT FROM THE LAST ONE. LOOK AT THESE HEADLINES. I'VE GOT TO DO SOMETHING SOON!

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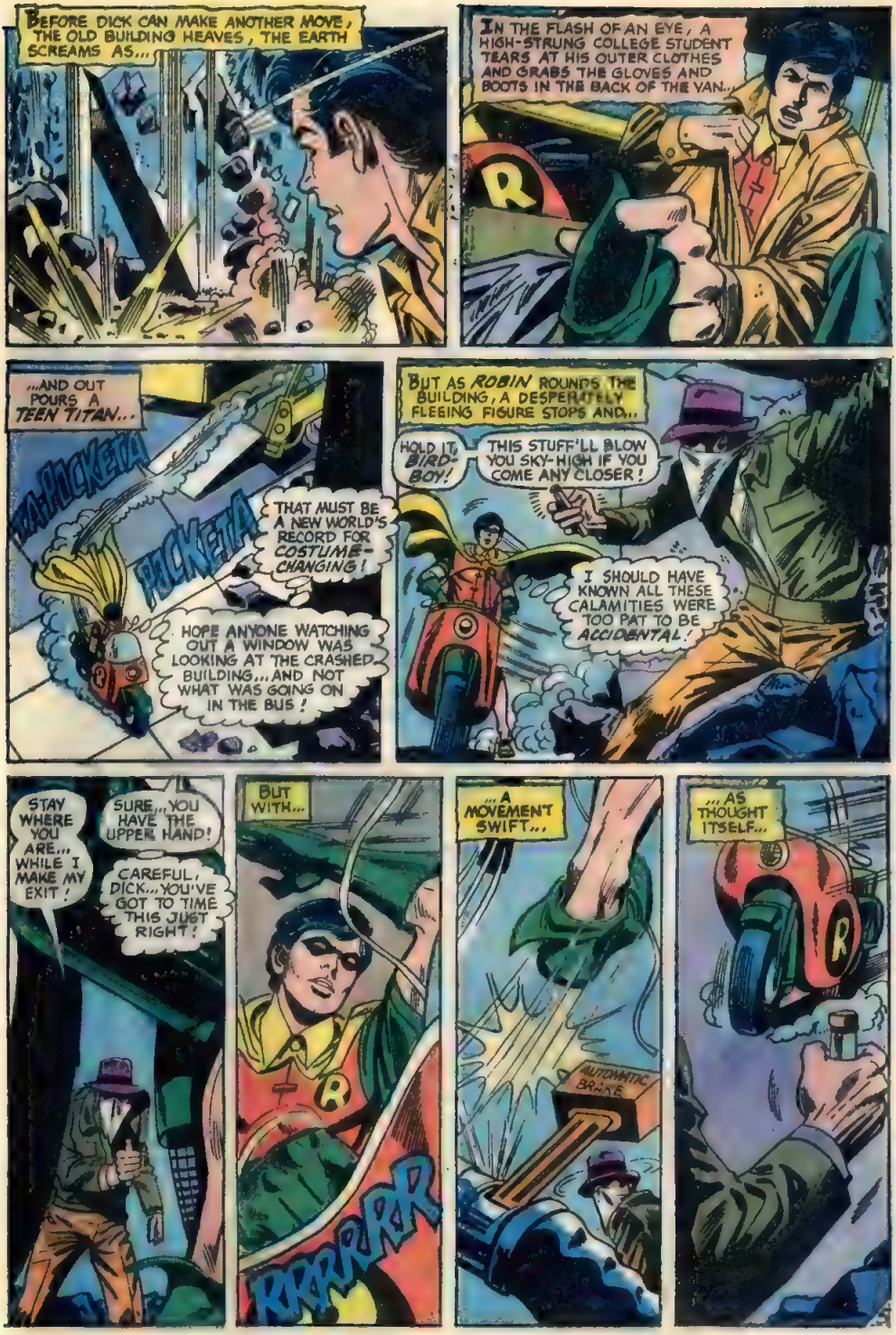
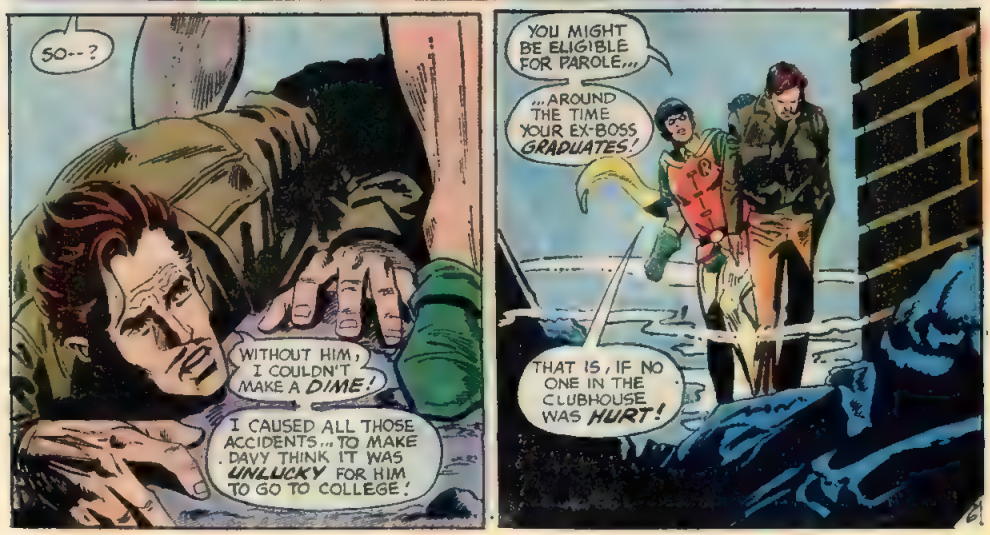
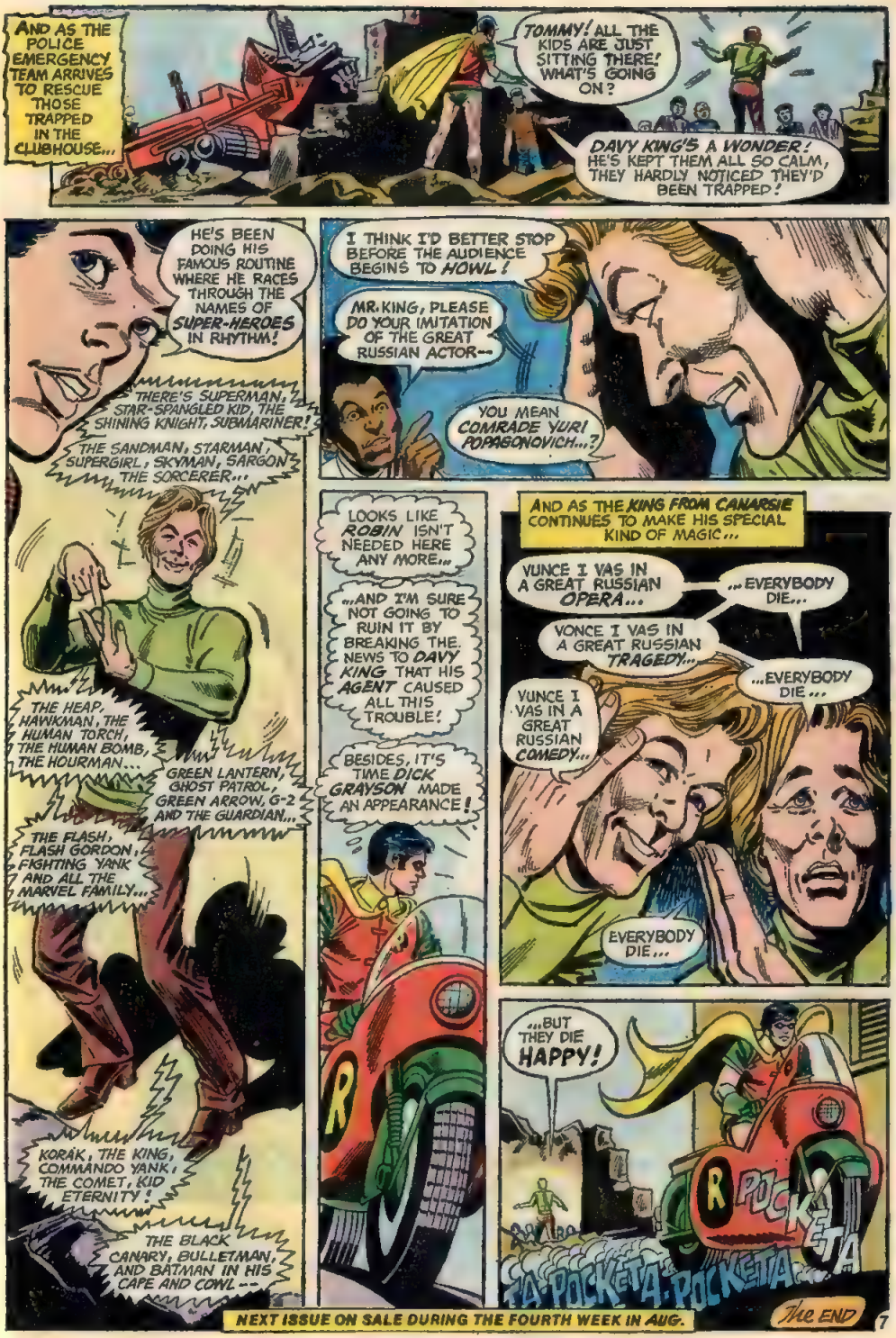

BEFORE DICK CAN MAKE ANOTHER MOVE, THE OLD BUILDING HEAVES, THE EARTH SCREAMS AS...
IN THE FLASH OF AN EYE, A HIGH-STRUNG COLLEGE STUDENT TEARS AT HIS OUTER CLOTHES AND GRABS THE GLOVES AND BOOTS IN THE BACK OF THE VAN...
...AND OUT POURS A TEEN TITAN...
KA-PICKETA!
PICKETA!
THAT MUST BE A NEW WORLD'S RECORD FOR COSTUME-CHANGING!
I HOPE ANYONE WATCHING OUT A WINDOW WAS LOOKING AT THE CRASHED BUILDING... AND NOT WHAT WAS GOING ON IN THE BUS!
BUT AS ROBIN ROUNDS THE BUILDING, A DESPERATELY FLEEING FIGURE STOPS AND...
HOLD IT, BIRD-BOY!
THIS STUFF'LL BLOW YOU SKY-HIGH IF YOU COME ANY CLOSER!
I SHOULD HAVE KNOWN ALL THESE CALAMITIES WERE TOO PAT TO BE ACCIDENTAL!
STAY WHERE YOU ARE... WHILE I MAKE MY EXIT!
SURE... YOU HAVE THE UPPER HAND!
CAREFUL, DICK... YOU'VE GOT TO TIME THIS JUST RIGHT!
BUT WITH...
KRRRRR
...A MOVEMENT SWIFT...
AUTOMATIC BRAKE
...AS THOUGHT ITSELF...

KA-DA-
BOOM
HAVE TO SHIELD HIM FROM THE EXPLOSION!
OKAY--WHO ARE YOU?
I-I'M VAN SICKLEN--
--DAVY KING'S AGENT... BEFORE HE WENT BACK TO SCHOOL!


SO--?
WITHOUT HIM, I COULDN'T MAKE A DIME!
I CAUSED ALL THOSE ACCIDENTS... TO MAKE DAVY THINK IT WAS UNLUCKY FOR HIM TO GO TO COLLEGE!
YOU MIGHT BE ELIGIBLE FOR PAROLE...
...AROUND THE TIME YOUR EX-BOSS GRADUATES!
THAT IS, IF NO ONE IN THE CLUBHOUSE WAS HURT!


AND AS THE POLICE EMERGENCY TEAM ARRIVES TO RESCUE THOSE TRAPPED IN THE CLUBHOUSE...
TOMMY! ALL THE KIDS ARE JUST SITTING THERE! WHAT'S GOING ON?
DAVY KING'S A WONDER! HE'S KEPT THEM ALL SO CALM, THEY HARDLY NOTICED THEY'D BEEN TRAPPED!
HE'S BEEN DOING HIS FAMOUS ROUTINE WHERE HE RACES THROUGH THE NAMES OF SUPER-HEROES IN RHYTHM!
THERE'S SUPERMAN, STAR-SPANGLED KID, THE SHINING KNIGHT, SUBMARINER!
THE SANDMAN, STARMAN, SUPERGIRL, SKYMAN, SARGON THE SORCERER...
THE HEAP, HAWKMAN, THE HUMAN TORCH, THE HUMAN BOMB, THE HOURMAN...
GREEN LANTERN, GHOST PATROL, GREEN ARROW, G-2 AND THE GUARDIAN...
THE FLASH, FLASH GORDON, FIGHTING YANK AND ALL THE MARVEL FAMILY...
KORAK, THE KING, COMMANDO YANK, THE COMET, KID ETERNITY!
THE BLACK CANARY, BULLETMAN, AND BATMAN IN HIS CAPE AND COWL --
I THINK I'D BETTER STOP BEFORE THE AUDIENCE BEGINS TO HOWL!
MR. KING, PLEASE DO YOUR IMITATION OF THE GREAT RUSSIAN ACTOR--
YOU MEAN COMRADE YURI POPAGONOVICH...?
LOOKS LIKE ROBIN ISN'T NEEDED HERE ANY MORE...
...AND I'M SURE NOT GOING TO RUIN IT BY BREAKING THE NEWS TO DAVY KING THAT HIS AGENT CAUSED ALL THIS TROUBLE!
BESIDES, IT'S TIME DICK GRAYSON MADE AN APPEARANCE!
AND AS THE KING FROM CANARSIE CONTINUES TO MAKE HIS SPECIAL KIND OF MAGIC...
VUNCE I VAS IN A GREAT RUSSIAN OPERA...
...EVERYBODY DIE...
VONCE I VAS IN A GREAT RUSSIAN TRAGEDY...
...EVERYBODY DIE...
VUNCE I VAS IN A GREAT RUSSIAN COMEDY...
EVERYBODY DIE...
...BUT THEY DIE HAPPY!
R
POCKETA-POCKETA-POCKETA...

NEXT ISSUE ON SALE DURING THE FOURTH WEEK IN AUG.

The END

Let's leave the smog-ridden streets of New York City for a change and travel to a pleasanter place, a small town in Illinois where a new chapter is being added to the story of the one and only *Superman*. Join with me then for a visit to *The Amazing World of Superman* in . . .

METROPOLIS, ILLINOIS

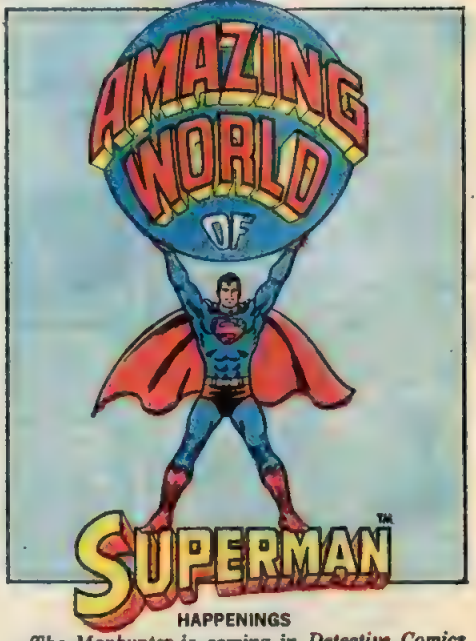
Even people who have never read an issue of *Superman*, or *Action Comics*, or *any* comics magazine know that Metropolis is the name of the city where the Man of Steel lives. The *Superman* legend has been immortalized in a television series, cartoon shows, movies, and magazines from *Time* to *Gentleman's Quarterly*. So when the quiet midwestern town of Metropolis, Illinois announced last year that it was adopting its most famous citizen as the trademark of a new recreation center, the only thing that surprised me was that they hadn't thought of it sooner!

"The Amazing World Of Superman" is going to be a very special place when it's completed in a few years. Plans call for a *Superman Museum*, an amusement park (does anyone out there remember a story entitled "Superman In Superman Land" from the nineteen-fifties? Dreams sometimes come true!), and a fantasy world all wrapped into one. On Memorial Day this year it all began with the opening of the new *Superman Exhibition Center*, the cornerstone of the entire operation.

As you walk though the center, you'll pass a gigantic 25 foot long mural of *Superman*, the largest in the world. After you've been greeted by that awesome sight, you can tour the various exhibits and learn how a Comic Magazine is Created (from the original editorial conference in the DC offices to the vast four-color printing plant in Sparta, Illinois), view over a million dollars worth of original comic art—from the days of the Golden Age to today's blockbuster issues, visit the world's largest collection of *Superman* memorabilia, compete in the *Junior Superman Olympics* (a special event just for you junior athletes!), join the brand-new *Supermen of Metropolis Club*, watch a *Superman* movie, see the model of *Superman's* home and meet the Man of Steel himself! It's a terrific time for the whole family for only $1.75 per adult and $1.25 per child, so be sure to make plans to visit there this summer. You can make the price even lower by bringing a cover of any new comic with *Superman* on it! That'll lower the price 25c any time . . . even weekends and holidays!

To celebrate the opening of the Center the people of Metropolis have produced a very special magazine entitled "The Amazing World of Superman—Metropolis Edition" for their visitors. It is only available at the center or by mail from them. Its 64 oversized pages are packed with fun and excitement—the origin of *Superman* (a new version by Swan and Anderson, not the one that was reprinted in *Secret Origins* #1), a poster map of Krypton, newspaper comic strips (from the forties), stories, and articles on the many mediums that *Superman* has appeared in. If you don't think that you can get to Metropolis to pick it up, send $2.00 plus 40c to cover postage and handling to: Metropolis Recreation, Inc., Post Office Box 809, Metropolis, Illinois 62960, and it'll be delivered to your doorstep by super-mail.

There's going to be a lot happening in Metropolis, so watch this column for more details. Meanwhile, let's go back to the city of New York and the *DC* offices for a survey of the latest . . .



HAPPENINGS

The Manhunter is coming in *Detective Comics* this summer, just as I promised in *Behind The Scenes* #3, and editor/writer Archie Goodwin has picked an artist for the strip at long last. The lucky gent is one Walt Simonson, a new artist whose work is also going to be appearing in *Sword of Sorcery*.

To top it all off, the ghostly guardian is returning to the pages of *Adventure Comics*. No, not *Deadman* . . . *The Spectre!* Editor Joe Orlando enjoyed re-reading his origin so much in *Secret Origins* #5 that he's launching a *Spectre* series in *Adventure* #431. *Black Orchid* fans shouldn't go into mourning though, as her series will continue to appear in every issue.

Behind The Scenes #1 wasn't on the stands for a week before the letters started to pour in. I promise to answer all the questions that I can next time, and meanwhile I expect to see you all at the New York Comic Art Convention this upcoming July Fourth! 'Till then, keep reading!

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